

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please make the following amendments to the claims as noted.

1. (original) Method for moulding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff starting materials which are suitable for consumption, in particular a meat mass, comprising the steps of
  - a) filling a mould cavity, which is open on one side, with the mass of foodstuff starting materials which are suitable for consumption, which mould cavity is defined by a boundary comprising walls and base, in order to mould a moulded three-dimensional product; and
  - b) removing the moulded three-dimensional product from the mould cavity; wherein step b) comprises the removal of the adhesion forces between product and boundary of the cavity substantially simultaneously at all the interfaces between the moulded three-dimensional product and the boundary.
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) Device for moulding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff starting materials which are suitable for consumption, in particular a meat mass, comprising a moulding surface; which is provided on one side with one or more mould cavities which are open on one side and are defined by a boundary comprising walls and base, a mass feed member, which is arranged at a mass feed position, for feeding the said mass to the mould cavities, wherein the device comprises means for applying a medium for eliminating adhesion forces between the boundary (66, 68) of a mould cavity (60) and a moulded product (78).

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (original) Moulding device for moulding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff starting materials which are suitable for consumption, comprising

- a drum which can be rotated in a direction of rotation by associated drive means and has a drum wall which is provided with at least one mould cavity which is open on the outer circumference of the drum and is delimited by a boundary comprising walls and base,

- a mass feed member for supplying the said mass to the mould cavity, which is arranged at a mass feed position along the outer circumference of the drum, and

- reduced-pressure means for forming a reduced pressure in the mould cavity, wherein around the outer circumference of the drum (16) there is a strip (86), the strip being provided, at the location of a mould cavity (60), with a flexible premoulds (90) which substantially corresponds to the mould cavity.

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (cancelled)

31. (cancelled)

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)

34. (original) Moulding device for moulding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff starting materials which are suitable for consumption, comprising

- a drum which can be rotated in a direction of rotation by associated drive means and has a drum wall which is provided with mould cavities which are open at the outer circumference of the drum and are defined by a boundary comprising walls and a base;

- a mass feed member for feeding the said mass to the mould cavities, which is arranged at a mass feed position along the outer circumference of the drum; and

- reduced-pressure means for forming a reduced pressure in the mould cavities, wherein the boundary (66, 68) is at least in part provided with a large number of fine openings which are in communication with the reduced-pressure means.

35. (cancelled)

36. (cancelled)

37. (cancelled)

38. (cancelled)

39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)

41. (cancelled)

42. (cancelled)

43. (cancelled)

44. (cancelled)

45. (cancelled)

46. (cancelled)

47. (cancelled)

48. (cancelled)

49. (original) Release device (21) for removing moulded products (78) from one or more mould cavities (60) of a moulding device, comprising drivable endless conveyors (120) which are arranged in parallel and describe a movement about turning elements (122), between which conveyors (120) there are connecting elements (136), in such a manner that the connecting elements (136), at the release position, pass substantially through the centre of

the axis of the turning element (122) in question.

50. (cancelled)

51. (original) Mass feed member (18) for feeding a mass of foodstuff starting materials which are suitable for consumption, in particular a meat mass, to a mould cavity in the outer circumference of the drum of a moulding device, comprising a housing (140) with an inlet side and a drum side which is to face the drum, a through-passage (142) for mass to pass from an inlet (144) towards an outlet (146) located on the drum side, the drum side being designed to adjust in a sealing manner to irregularities in the outer circumference of the drum (16).

52. (cancelled )

53. (cancelled)

54. (cancelled)

55. (cancelled)

56. (original) Moulding surface, in particular a moulding drum, for moulding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff starting materials which are suitable for consumption, in particular from a meat mass, provided on one side with one or more mould

cavities which are open on one side and are defined by a boundary comprising walls and a base, wherein the walls (66) and base (68) which form the boundary are provided with holes which extend through the boundary.

57. (cancelled)

58. (cancelled)

59. (cancelled)

60. (cancelled)

61. (cancelled)

62. (cancelled)